

Elizabeth Roy Mayor T 905.430.4300 x2203 mayor@whitby.ca



January 18, 2023

Ontario Energy Board 2300 Yonge Street, 27th Floor Toronto, Ontario M4P 1E4

Attention: Ms. Nancy Marconi Registrar via email: Registrar@oeb.ca

RE: Elexicon Energy Inc ("Elexicon") Application for Approval of 2023 Distribution Rates - Town of Whitby Letter of Support Board Proceeding No.: EB-2022-0024

Dear Ms. Marconi:

The Town of Whitby is providing this letter of support to the Ontario Energy Board ("OEB") in respect of Elexicon's request for approval of:

- I. Incremental Capital Modules {"ICMs") to fund the construction of the Whitby Smart Grid ("WSG") and the Sustainable Brooklin Project ("Sustainable Brooklin"); and
- II. an exemption from the requirement that the Brooklin landowners/developers pay a contribution towards the construction of the Brooklin Line provided they commit to include distributed energy resources ("DER") and electric vehicle enabling features in all new homes that they construct in the new community of North Brooklin (together, the "ICM Application").

On July 11, 2022, Town Council passed a resolution endorsing the ICM Application (see Attachment A). On July 18, 2022, the Town of Whitby submitted a letter to the OEB expressing its support for the ICM Application and advising of the July 11th resolution (see Attachment B). Considering recent changes to Town Council, the recent completion of a report on future plans for growth in Durham Region (i.e., the Envision Durham Municipal Comprehensive Review) and changes to the planning regime brought about by Bill 23, More Homes Built Faster, the Town of Whitby wishes to reaffirm its strong support for the ICM Application.

Sustainable Brooklin represents a vital investment in the future of the Town of Whitby. When implemented, it will support the promotion of important green energy initiatives, including renewable energy generation, battery storage and electric vehicle charging and reduced carbon footprints. The Town supports the Whitby Smart Grid and the Sustainable Brooklin line as they together will contribute to increased levels of sustainable development in the Town.

A significant amount of growth is planned for the Town of Whitby. Much of this growth is focused along or around the proposed Brooklin Line. Approval of the ICM Application will facilitate the development of approximately 14,000 residential units; significant retail; commercial and employment, creating businesses over the next 20+ years. The timely delivery of electricity is essential to realize this much needed growth in North Brooklin and new expansions areas to provide a steady supply of housing in Whitby. The proposed Brooklin Line is urgently required to provide north Whitby customers with a modern and sustainable distribution grid that is innovative and robust and reinforces Whitby's current hydro network.

It is critical that construction of the Brooklin Line begin as soon as possible in order that the Town of Whitby can support the Ontario government's housing targets by fulfilling its pledge to deliver 18,000 new homes in the Town of Whitby by 2031. North Brooklin is a strategic growth area, and development of this new community will result in delivery of these new homes - provided a source of electricity can be secured.

In conclusion, the Town of Whitby urges the OEB to approve the ICM Application for the reasons set out above. We thank you for your time and consideration in this matter. Please contact me at any time should you wish to discuss these matters further.

Sincerely,

Elizabeth Roy Mayor

Town of Whitby Office of the Mayor 575 Rossland Road East Whitby, ON L1N 2M8 <u>whitby.ca</u>

cc. Matthew Gaskell, CAO Town of Whitby Brooklin Landowner's Group